

From: Catherine Viney [mailto:Catherine.Viney@cosmos.org.au]
Sent: Friday, 19 March 2010 12:11 PM
To: WWCVP consultation
Subject: Working with Vulnerable People

I was forwarded the discussion paper titled "A Working with Children and other Vulnerable People Checking System for Tasmania" and have prepared the below response. COSMOS Inc is a non profit organisation providing recreation and day support services to people with intellectual disabilities.

In general COSMOS Inc welcomes the paper and the proposed approach in most instances. Overall I note that Tasmania are being progressive in including vulnerable people as part of the checking system and am glad this is the approach the government is proposing.

There are a couple of areas where I have particular concern and these are in response to:

Question 4 : Regular service providers should be included in the list of types of engagement to capture those businesses where employees may have regular access to vulnerable people but would not regard themselves as contractors or sub contractors eg. Transport companies

Question 9 : Have no comment particularly except to note that where contact with a vulnerable person extends past a 'normal interaction' that a check should occur eg. Managing finances. Given that most people are abused by those they know already will this checking process do anything other than support this to continue?

Question 13: Proposed employees should be cleared before beginning work. The timelines proposed in section 18.4 are quick and are reasonable in turn around time.

Question 23: While COSMOS is in full support of the proposed introduction of a checking system as an employer I would require that the process is 1) timely 2) not burdensome to business and 3) does not pass on further costs than an organisation already bears in undertaking employee checking.

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